

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

IN RE: WORLD TRADE CENTER DISASTER SITE
LITIGATION

21 MC 100 (AKH)

VIVIAN VERGARA,

06 Civ.

Plaintiff(s),

Hon. Alvin K. Hellerstein, U.S.D.J.

-against-

1 WORLD TRADE CENTER LLC, ET AL.,

NOTICE OF REMOVAL

Defendants.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that AMEC CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT, INC., BOVIS LEND LEASE LMB, INC., TULLY CONSTRUCTION CO., INC., AND TURNER CONSTRUCTION COMPANY (collectively “Defendants”) hereby remove the above-entitled action (the “Action”) from the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of New York to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1441, § 1442(a)(1), § 1446(a), § 1446(b) and the Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act, Public Law No. 107-42, § 401 *et seq.*, 115 Stat. 230 (2001) (the “ATSSSA”) (codified as amended at 49 U.S.C. §40101 (2001)).

In support of this Notice of Removal, Defendants state:

1. On or about October 3, 2006, Plaintiff(s) filed a Summons with Notice in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of New York. Plaintiff(s) assert claims resulting from, relating to, and arising out of the terrorist-related aircraft crashes of September 11, 2001. A true copy of the Summons with Notice is attached to this Notice of Removal.

2. On or about November 20, 2006, Defendants received the Summons with Notice in this Action bearing Index Number 114446/06.

3. Because these claims arise out of Plaintiff(s)' alleged injuries resulting from, relating to, and arising out of the September 11, 2001 terrorist-related aircraft crashes, the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York has original and exclusive jurisdiction over the Action. Specifically in response to the tragic events of September 11, 2001, Congress enacted the ATSSSA on September 22, 2001, which created a comprehensive scheme addressing numerous matters resulting from the attacks. Section 408(b) of the ATSSSA contains a broad jurisdictional provision centralizing in the Southern District of New York the resolution of any litigation claims resulting from or relating to the events of September 11, 2001:

The United States District Court for the Southern District of New York shall have original and exclusive jurisdiction over all actions brought for any claim (including any claim for loss of property, personal injury, or death) resulting from or relating to the terrorist-related aircraft crashes of September 11, 2001.

Pub. L. No. 107-42, § 408(b)(3), 115 Stat. 230, 241 (2001).

4. In addition, Section 408(b)(1) of the ATSSSA creates a federal cause of action over which this Court has original jurisdiction. It provides:

There shall exist a Federal cause of action for damages arising out of the hijacking and subsequent crashes of American Airlines flights 11 and 77, and United Airlines flights 93 and 175, on September 11, 2001. Notwithstanding section 40120(c) of title 49, United States Code, this cause of action shall be the exclusive remedy for damages arising out of the hijacking and subsequent crashes of such flights.

Pub. L. No. 107-42, § 408(b)(1), 115 Stat. 230, 240-241 (2001).

5. Furthermore, In *In re: WTC Disaster Site*, the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit conclusively recognized the original and exclusive jurisdiction in the Southern

District of New York for claims relating to the terrorist-related aircraft crashes of September 11, 2001. *See In re: WTC Disaster Site*, 414 F.3d 352, 375–380 (2d Cir. 2005).

6. Based on the foregoing, the Action is removable from the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of New York to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1441.

7. The Action is also removable based upon 28 U.S.C. § 1442(a)(1). Section 1442(a)(1) provides:

(a) A civil action . . . commenced in a State court against any of the following may be removed by them to the district court of the United States for the district and division embracing the place wherein it is pending:

(1) The United States or any agency thereof or any officer (or any person acting under that officer) of the United States or of any agency thereof, sued in an official or individual capacity for any act under color of such office

8. Federal agencies and officers exercised control over particular health, safety and other issues relating to the rescue, recovery, cleanup, debris removal and/or construction efforts at the World Trade Center (“WTC”) site following the attacks on September 11, 2001.

9. Defendants complied with the directives of those federal agencies and officers in performing these activities at the WTC site, and therefore have at least a colorable federal immunity defense.

10. Moreover, because the federal agencies and officers exercised control over these issues, a causal nexus exists between the Plaintiff(s)’ claims and Defendants’ alleged activities.

11. Therefore, the Action is removable from the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of New York to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1442(a)(1).

12. Consent of all defendants to removal here is unnecessary as § 408(b)(1) of the

ATSSSA provides for original and exclusive jurisdiction in the Southern District of New York for claims relating to the terrorist-related aircraft crashes of September 11, 2001. Pub. L. No. 107-42, § 408(b)(3), 115 Stat. 230, 241 (2001); *Ackerman v. Nat'l. Property Analysts*, 1992 WL 84477 at *1 (S.D.N.Y. 1992). Consent of all defendants here is also unnecessary pursuant to § 1442(a)(1). *Bradford v. Harding*, 284 F.2d 307, 310 (2d Cir. 1960).

13. Defendants' Notice of Removal is timely as the Notice of Removal will be filed within thirty days of Defendants' receipt of the Summons with Notice. *See* 28 U.S.C. §1446(b).

14. A copy of this Notice of Removal will be filed with the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of New York, and will be served on Plaintiff(s)' counsel pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(d).

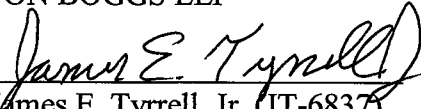
15. Pursuant to Rule 81.1(b) of the local civil rules for the Southern District of New York, Defendants will forward a copy of all records and proceedings in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of New York within 20 days.

16. Defendants reserve the right to amend or supplement this Notice of Removal.

WHEREFORE, Defendants hereby remove to this Court the action now pending against them in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of New York, bearing Index No. 114446/06.

Dated: Newark, New Jersey
December 8, 2006

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SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF NEW YORK

-----X
VIVIANA VERGARA,

Plaintiff(s),

-against-

1 WORLD TRADE CENTER LLC, ET AL.
(SEE ATTACHED RIDER)

Defendant(s).
-----X

SUMMONS WITH NOTICE

114446/06
Index No:

To the above-named defendant(s):

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon plaintiff's/plaintiffs' attorney, at the address stated below, a notice of appearance or demand for a complaint.

If this summons was personally delivered upon you in the State of New York, the answer must be served within twenty days after such service of the summons, excluding the date of service. If the summons was not personally delivered to you within the State of New York, the answer must be served within thirty days after service of the summons is complete as provided by law.

The nature of this action is to recover money damages and any other relief that the Court deems just and proper for exposure to toxic contaminants, including but not limited to: fumes, gasses, mists, vapors, dust, fibers, particles, substances, and/or radiation at or around the World Trade Center Site, Ground Zero, Fresh Kills Landfill, and/or in the area and buildings surrounding the World Trade Center Site following terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. This exposure caused plaintiff's/plaintiffs' injuries, including but not limited to: acid reflux disease, asthma, Barrets Esophagus, bronchial inflammation, bronchitis, bullous disease of the lungs, cancer, chemical pneumonitis, chronic bronchitis, chronic cough, chronic laryngitis, chronic pneumonia, chronic rhinitis, chronic sinusitis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), emphysema, gastroesophageal disease (GERD), hearing loss, laryngitis, malignant mesothelioma, nasal polyps, neurological problems, peritonsillar cellulitis, pharyngitis, pneumonia, polyps on the larynx, polyps on the throat, reactive airway dysfunction syndrome (RADS), rhinitis, sarcoidosis, silicosis, sinus polyps, sinusitis, ulcerative colitis, vocal chord dysfunction, and exacerbation of a prior existing condition or conditions.

Your action(s) and/or failure to act, constitutes carelessness, negligence and/or recklessness, and is the sole and proximate cause of plaintiff's/plaintiffs' toxic exposure, and resulting injuries, illnesses and damages.

Your failure and/or the failure of your agents, servants, representatives and/or employees to comply with, including but not limited to, the following: General Municipal Law of the State of New York §205-e and §205-a; the Occupational Safety and Health Act, 29 U.S.C. §§ 654 et seq.; Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards, including but not limited to, 29 C.F.R. §1910 Subparts H, I, J, K and Z, and specifically 29 C.F.R. §§1910.38, 1910.120, 1910.132-134, 1910.146,



1910.156, 1910.1001, 1910.1025, 1910.1027, 1910.1000 and 1910.1200; 29 C.F.R. §1926 Subparts C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J and Z; The New York Industrial Code, including but not limited to: §§23-1.5, 23-1.7, 23-1.8, 23-1.9, 23-1.25, 23-1.26 and 23-2.1; New York State Labor Law, including but not limited to: §§200, 240, 241(6), Article 2, §27-a, Article 28; 12 N.Y.C.R.R. §820.4; and other applicable Federal, State and local rules, regulations, ordinances and statutes is the proximate cause of plaintiff's/plaintiffs' injuries, toxic exposure and resulting damages.

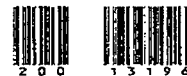
If you do not serve a notice of appearance or demand for a complaint within the applicable time limitation stated above, a judgment may be entered against you, by default, for a sum greater than the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts, with interest, and the costs and disbursements of this action.

The action will be heard in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, in and for the County of New York. The basis of venue is N.Y. C.P.L.R. §509.

Dated: New York, New York
October 4, 2006



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VIVIANA VERGARA,

PLAINTIFFS,

- AGAINST -

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ATTORNEY VERIFICATION

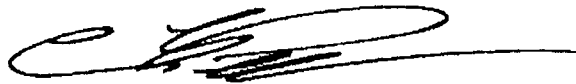
CHRISTOPHER R. LOPALO, an attorney at law, duly admitted to practice in the Courts of the State of New York, affirms under the penalties of perjury that:

He is the attorney for the plaintiff(s) in the above-entitled action. That he has read the foregoing SUMMONS WITH NOTICE and knows the contents thereof, and upon information and belief, deponent believes the matters alleged therein to be true.

The reason this Verification is made by deponent and not by the plaintiff(s) is that the plaintiff(s) herein reside(s) in a county other than the one in which the plaintiff's attorneys maintain their office.

The source of deponent's information and the grounds of his belief are communication, papers, reports and investigation contained in the file.

DATED: New York, New York
October 4, 2006



CHRISTOPHER R. LOPALO, Esq.



Index No:

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF NEW YORK

VIVIANA VERGARA,

Plaintiff(s)

- against -

1 WORLD TRADE CENTER LLC, ET. AL.,

Defendant(s).

SUMMONS WITH NOTICE

WORBY GRONER EDELMAN & NAPOLI BERN, LLP

Attorneys for: Plaintiff(s)

Office and Post Office Address, Telephone

115 Broadway - 12th Floor

New York, New York 10006

(212) 267-3700

To
Attorney(s) for

Service of a copy of the within
is hereby admitted.

Dated,

Attorney(s) for

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

☐ NOTICE OF ENTRY

that the within is a (certified) true copy of an
duly entered in the office of the clerk of the within named court on ____ 20__

☐ NOTICE OF SETTLEMENT

that an order _____ of which the within is a true copy
will be presented for settlement to the HON. _____ one of the
judges of the
within named Court, at
on _____ 20__ at _____ M.
Dated,

Yours, etc.,

WORBY GRONER EDELMAN & NAPOLI BERN, LLP

